equipments, supply of sprinkler sets, fanners' training and contingency for monitoring etc.

(c) The Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) which assesses the requirement of cotton for textile and non-textile consumption in the country makes such assessment for total requirement of cotton and not staple group-wise separately.

(d) and (e) As per estimates of CAB, production of long and extra long staple cotton during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 is as under:

(In lakh bales)

| Staple group | 1996-97 | 1997-98 |
|---|---|---|
| Long Extra | 68.45 | 71.00 |
| long | 5.66 | 4.50 |

The CAB which assesses the demand-supply of cotton in the country has provisionally assessed the requirement of import of cotton as 2 lakh bales during 1998-99 season.

The import of cotton is currently under OGL with zero import duty, Hence, there is no restriction on import cotton and the textile mills are at liberty to import cotton of any staple variety/quantity and from any country of their choice.

**Fishing Harbours in Orissa**

2041. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be-pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places of Orissa where fishing harbours are being constructed at present;

(b) whether the proposals for the establishment of some fishing harbours in that State are pending with Govemment;

(c) if so, what are those pending proposals; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by Government to give those proposals administrative approvals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Dhamra Stage-ll minor fishing harbour in Bhadrak district is under construction in Orissa.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

**Assistance to Assam Agricultural University**

2042. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how much assistance have been given to the Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat by the ICAR in last three years; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to fund the university for research work in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Over Rs. 10.34 crores have been given to Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in the last three years.

(b) The Council will continue to fund Assam Agricultural University through All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP), Adhoc Schemes and Revolving fund schemes in future also. Two adhoc schemes for funding through the A.P. Cess Fund of ICAR for Fishery College of Assam Agricultural University are in pipeline. A Seed Technology Research Centre and AICRP on under-utilised crops have also been proposed during IXth Plan. In addition, Catch-up Grant for upgradation and modernisation of infrastructure and laboratory facilities has also been proposed during IXth Plan.

**Vegetables Production in Kerala**

2043. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has submitted a project for increasing vegetable production to attain self-sufficiency in the State seeking financial assistance for the same; and

(b) if so, the details of the project and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala submitted a project proposal for increasing vegetable production to attain self-sufficiency in the State. On the